

he was only about 15 yards away. Despite having dropped 25 feet the ducklings raced off with their mother towards a drain some 300 yards away. Mr. Paterson has been keenly interested in birds for over 50 years and was born and bred in the district and yet he never saw a duck bring down its young until this recent occasion.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

Ovalides reticularis, a fish new to Western Australia.—Mr. A. J. Fraser (Chief Inspector of Fisheries) has presented to the Museum a small blowfish caught at the foot of East Street, Fremantle, in the Swan River estuary on May 23, 1949. On examination this proves to be a young Striped Blowfish, *Ovalides reticularis* (Bloeh and Schneider), a species known to occur in the seas of India, the East Indies, New Guinea and Queensland but not previously recorded from our waters. The fish measures 118 mm. (about 4½ in.) in total length, and is lenticular in shape, its body tapering equally to both head and tail, in this way differing from our common blowfishes. Its colour above is dark blue-grey with numerous small whitish spots; on the sides of the face, around the pectoral fins and on the under surface white predominates over numerous dark blue-grey stripes which encircle the pectorals and are more or less longitudinal on the face and the under surface of the body. The fins are greyish with dark edges but the fleshy base of the dorsal is snow-white.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum.

Larder Habits of the Grey Butcher-bird.—We have had two Grey Butcher-birds (*Cracticus torquatus*) coming to our place for the past four years. Today (June 27, 1949) they made their first appearance since February. They usually return in June after leaving with their young in February. We have a peach tree growing close to our back verandah. With the heavy crop of fruit several limbs have broken off, leaving splintered points. I feed the birds on pieces of meat and they have learnt what will happen when they see me walking to the meat safe with the knife. They know I will place about 12 pieces on the verandah table. After I step back one bird comes down and after eating two pieces he starts to place piece after piece in the splintered points of the broken peach limbs until the whole lot is gone. In the meantime the other bird is helping itself. The birds pull the pieces of meat down between the splinters tight with their beaks so that they will not drop off with the wind. While I am writing this one bird flew off with a big piece after having placed a few in the tree.

—W. L. GRANT, Collie.

Red-capped Robin Influx.—Following on the note in the last number (p. 21) of the observation of a male Red-capped Robin (*Petroeca goodenovii*) between Lake Mealup and the south shore of Peel Inlet on May 14, the following reports have been received of